GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:140
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
RAM PRASAD SINGH;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Operation Research Group in conjunction with UNICEF has surveyed Mid-Day-Meal Scheme in States to assess its success;

(b)if so, whether the said Group found that the scheme is not being implemented in its true spirit in States;

(c)if so, the details thereof;

(d)the number of States which have shown very poor performance in implementation of this scheme; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for effective implementation of this scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 140 RA BY SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH AND SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI REGARDING MID- DAY MEAL SCHEME FOR ON 31-07-2001.

(a), (b) and (c): An evaluation study to asses the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (popularly called Mid-day Meals Scheme) was undertaken by an independent agency called Operations Research Group, New Delhi with the financial assistance of Unicef. The study covers Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.The report was submitted in September, 1999. The findings of the report state that while the programme has given a boost to enrolment in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; in 6 other States it has had a positive impact on attendance and retention.

For further improvement in the programme the evaluation report has raised issues such as requirement of separate cell with adequate staff, lack of coordination among the agencies involved in the implementation of the programme, allocation of food-grains to be made contingent upon enrolment, data need for streamlining payment of transportation charges, periodic monitoring and mid-term review of the lifting and distribution of food-grains and greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

A follow up action has already been initiated on these issues.

(d) and (e): States in which lifting of food-grains has been poor are - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya and Punjab. Central Government has taken up the matter with these States to improve the position and ensure effective implementation of the Scheme.